

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report
April 24, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

Human disease: As of April 21, the World Health Organization has confirmed 204 cases of H5N1 influenza in humans, including 113 deaths (55.4%). In the last week, Indonesia and China each confirmed an additional case, both of whom died. Their exposures are under investigation. Egypt confirmed its fourth death; the total for Egypt is now 12 cases, including 4 deaths, one still hospitalized, and 7 fully recovered.

Animal disease: The World Organization for Animal Health this week reported the first positive H5N1 outbreak among poultry in Sudan.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- On April 21, VDH briefed local health districts on the status of their PanFlu grant submissions and give an initial informational brief on the PanFlu / Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise, scheduled during late October '06.
- VDH is in the process of scheduling the next PanFlu Advisory Group Meeting in Richmond during late June '06.
- Health Districts continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Offices

- **Northern**

- NOVA Health Directors gave PanFlu preparedness panel presentation to Northern Virginia Coalition Focusing on multi discipline, cross regional and National Capitol Region (NCR) coordination.
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VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Loudoun**

- Prepared Risk Communication presentation for Loudoun Task Force meeting on 4/25.
- Presentation on PanFlu to Loudoun Board of Supervisors
- Presentation on PanFlu to County Public Safety Committee
- Taped PanFlu program for Channel 2 to be aired throughout May.
- Attended animal Quarantine program at Dulles Airport given by USDA and CDC.
- Received 78 replies from medical offices to date requesting more education; results to be tabulated.
- Conducted several media interviews.

- **Virginia Beach**

- Briefed City of Virginia Beach Safe Communities Strategic Issues Team on Pan Flu funding.
- Briefed Hospitals on PanFlu funding. Emergency Planner invited to be part of their internal PanFlu workgroup.
- Pan Flu presentation to Hospital physicians and local office MDs. Requested to provide training to physician offices and staffs on PanFlu, PPE and Hygiene practices.
- Briefed the Fire Chief / Emergency Manager and the Deputy Emergency Coordinator on Plans for funding and forming a task force. Both offered full support.
- Identifying stakeholders for task force formation.
- Addressed (with City PIO office) use of the new 311 system to transmit PanFlu messages and event notification.

- **Hampton**

- Met with Citizens Corps Council and talked about Pandemic Flu, also distributed PanFlu DVD. Met with Longwood PanFlu Planning Team.

- **Roanoke**

- Met with the Emergency Coordinator for the City of Roanoke to discuss PanFlu planning. Assisted City in assessing preparedness needs. Anticipate future meetings with school board members and other entities as requested. These meetings will be coordinated by City Emergency Manager.
- Met with Citizens Corps Council and talked about PanFlu; distributed PanFlu DVD.
- Met with Longwood PanFlu Planning Team.

- **Rapahanock**

- District will host a Community-Based Emergency Response Seminar. Over 100 people signed up to attend.
- Copies of the VDH Pandemic Flu video were placed in the Central Rappahannock Library System for its circulating collection.

- **Fairfax**
 - Hosted a public meeting to discuss development of the county's readiness plan. Featured a panel, including Fairfax Health Director and VDH veterinary epidemiologist. Panelists provided an overview of PanFlu and addressed avian flu as well as critical infrastructure issues that may arise during a pandemic. A question-and-answer session followed.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Drafted a survey to assess the public's preparedness for Pan Flu.
 - Cumberland Plateau, Sullivan County Tennessee Regional Health Department, and Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office Directors discussed planning efforts for the Mountain Empire Regional Pan Flu Summit to be tentatively held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA on June 7th in coordination with in the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council. Council consists of public health officials from a five state region including: Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
 - District prepared a draft explanatory document that will serve as an interim protocol for responding to public inquires in which the public is concerned about a "dead bird" possibly having avian flu, a working document to be updated / expanded in the future.
 - Drafting a protocol on concerns about human symptoms linked to possible H5N1 exposure.
 - Scheduling a public meeting to present PanFlu information and discuss preparedness issues on Monday, May 8, at the Russell County Public Library.
 - Conducted media interviews.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Director addressed an audience from Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County regarding forming a Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force / Planning Committee, and inviting individuals and organizations to join in helping the community prepare for a possible influenza pandemic.
 - Met with Chief of Staff at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital (Rocky Mount), to discuss pandemic influenza preparedness. Interest in a presentation to the hospital's medical staff and is working to schedule a meeting.
 - Conducted media interviews.
 - Health department contacted for guidance in preparing Patrick County School District for pandemic flu. Meeting is scheduled for May 5 with school officials. CDC School Planning Checklist and additional resource list were emailed to school official, along with contact information for the district epidemiologist.
- **Three Rivers**
 - Public presentation on Avian Flu (H5N1) and the connection to Pandemic Flu; and what the community can do to be prepared. Scheduled on April 25th at Rappahannock Community College. A Question and answer period will follow.